

Appl. No.: 10/049,590
Amdt. Dated 10/17/2008
Reply to Office Action of 08/18/2008

REMARKS

This response is submitted along in reply to the outstanding final Office Action dated August 18, 2008. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's thorough examination of the application as evidenced by the Office Action. All pending claims (i.e., claims 1-4; 6-13, 15-18, 20-28, 30, 31 and 35) currently stand rejected.

The final Office Action indicates that claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-13, 15-18, 20-22, 25-28, 30, 31, and 35 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Satran et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,430,183, hereinafter "Satran") in view of Stapleton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,175,875, hereinafter "Stapleton"), further in view of Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,285 hereinafter Lee). Claims 8, 9, 23, and 24 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Satran in view of Stapleton, further in view of Lee, further in view of Haggerty et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,331,983, hereinafter "Haggerty").

As explained below, however, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and submit that the claimed invention is patentably distinct from Satran, Stapleton, Lee, and Haggerty, taken individually or in any proper combination.

Independent claim 1, and similarly independent claims 6, 15, and 21, recite, *inter alia*, "storing in a control unit, tables of addresses of receivers belonging to a multicast group in a packet-switched network and specific parameters of the receivers in a table, wherein the specific parameters comprise parameters which are dependent on receiver conditions...determining addresses of receivers of the multicast group indicated by the multicast address by searching the tables based on the multicast address, preparing a receiver list from the addresses of the receivers, and determining the specific parameters of the receivers of the multicast group by searching the table in which the specific parameters for each receiver of the receiver list are stored..."

With respect to the rejections of independent claim 1, and similarly independent claims 6, 15, and 21, the Office Action asserts that Satran discloses "the specific parameters of the receivers." Further, the Office Action asserts that "Satran and Stapleton fail to teach the limitation further including storing parameters of the receivers in a table, searching the tables based on the multicast address, and determining parameters of the receivers by searching the table in which the parameters for each receiver are stored." To cure this deficiency, the Office

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Action cites to Lee for "teaching searching tables based on a multicast address to determine parameters of receivers/clients."

However, Lee also fails to disclose "determining addresses of receivers of the multicast group indicated by the multicast address by searching the tables based on the multicast address, preparing a receiver list from the addresses of the receivers, and determining the specific parameters of the receivers of the multicast group by searching the table in which the specific parameters for each receiver of the receiver list are stored" as recited in the independent claims. Lee merely discloses searching tables to identify the addresses of the multicast receivers. In other words, Lee does not disclose storing/searching specific parameters of the receivers in a table. Satran and Stapleton also fail in this regard, as asserted by the Office Action. As such, the Office Action fails to provide a prima facie case of obviousness, since the cited references do not teach or suggest all of the elements of the claims.

In the event that the Office Action is attempting to combine what is alleged to be disclosed in Satran with what is alleged to be disclosed in Lee, the rejection is also improper. The Office Action has provided no explicit apparent reason to combine the specific parameters allegedly disclosed in Satran with the searching and storing of receiver addresses allegedly disclosed in Lee as required under the ruling in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 82 USPQ2d 1385.

Additionally, the Office Action also cites to Satran for disclosing "preparing a receiver list from addresses of the receivers" as recited in the independent claims. However, Satran does not teach or suggest this claim element either. According to Satran, a receiver determines whether to receive a data packet by comparing bits of a data packet with an internally stored bit map. The receiver does not transmit the data packet further or otherwise facilitate the preparation of a receiver list. None of the cited references cure this deficiency, either alone or in a proper combination. Thus, since Satran (as well as the other references) fails to disclose the preparation of a receiver list from addresses of the receivers, no prima facie case of obviousness has been provided by the Office Action in this regard either, since the elements of the claims are not taught or suggested in the cited references.

As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of independent claims 1, 6, 15, and 21 be withdrawn and the claims be deemed allowable for at least the reasons described.

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above. Since the dependant claims include all the recitations of their respective independent claims, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of the dependent claims also be withdrawn and the claims be deemed allowable.

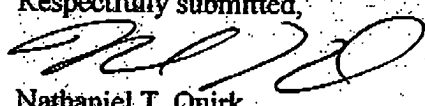
Accordingly, for all the reasons above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-18, 20-28, 30, 31 and 35 are traversed and the claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and the remarks submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are in condition for immediate allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present invention.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No: (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.


Grace R. Rippy

October 17, 2008
Date